

Council elects leadership, wraps up 2017 business

In their last session of the year, County Council members Monday night elected District 4 Councilwoman Mary Kay Sigaty as chairwoman.

District 2 Councilman Calvin Ball will remain the vice chairman of the council, and Councilwoman Jen Terrasa will remain the chairwoman of the Zoning Board.

The council passed several pieces of legislation, including granting \$6,300 to the Department of Recreation and Parks for historic signs at the B&O Railroad Museum in Ellicott City. In September, the county's Department of Recreation and Parks took over management and operation of the museum from the B&O Railroad Museum in Baltimore.

Council members also approved a lease between the county and Merritt Properties for the county to store its voting machines in a warehouse op-

erated by the company. The seven-and-a-half-year lease is worth more than \$150,000.

Merritt made donations to County Executive Allan Kittleman's 2014 campaign; however, the county's regulations do not prohibit private companies who have donated to officials' political campaigns from signing county contracts.

The council approved a revised manual for the county's Equal Business Opportunity Program after amending the legislation so that veterans are not added to the program as a "minority" group.

When the resolution was initially introduced by former council Chairman **Jon Weinstein** at the request of the county executive, it included a clause to have veterans added to the program as a "minority individual."

As the newly elected chairwoman, Sigaty ended the meeting on a light note, wishing residents a "peaceful" holiday season, filled with time to "rest and reflect."

The council will begin its 2018 session on Jan. 2 with a legislative meeting.

—Kate Magill